

## ON COLLECTING BEETLES IN WASHINGTON

by

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The following fragmentary notes have been prepared to provide a few suggestions as to when and where beetle collecting may be profitably done in Washington. The state is unequally divided into dry Eastern and damp Western portions by the Cascade Mountains.

Western Washington

Throughout the lowlands of Western Washington the best collecting month is May, with June almost as good, and July and August progressively less favorable. The gravel beaches of the larger streams provide characteristic Carabidae and the eddies and pools along the margins of streams characteristic fluviatile Dytiscidae. Willows and poplars along rivers frequently furnish characteristic Chrysomelidae, etc. Characteristic Cicindelidae, Carabidae, Staphylinidae, Histeridae, Scarabaeidae, and Curculionidae occur on sea beaches, the beaches facing the open ocean being a bit more productive than those along Puget Sound. Search under rocks in the spray of water-falls for the fine Platysma johnsoni Ulke. I have taken it at Multnomah Falls, Oregon, and at Green River Gorge northeast of Enumclaw, where several small falls cascade over the south wall of the canyon. The collector in the lowlands is encouraged to sample numerous different situations, as a few new things are likely to be added at each place.

Washington is especially notable for its alpine collecting and Paradise Park at 5,000 feet elevation on the south slope of Mt. Rainier is the most famous of its alpine collecting grounds. A collecting permit should be obtained from the park Naturalist at Longmire or by mail before entering the park. Boulevard-like scenic roads lead both to Paradise Park and to Yakima Park (elev. 6,000 ft.) on the north side of the mountain. July is the best month with August nearly as good. Endemic alpine Cicindelidae, Carabidae, Histeridae, Staphylinidae, Elateridae, Scarabaeidae, Etc. are common under stones and logs in and by the alpine meadows, in the animal dung, and under stones by the stream margins. Beat the evergreen trees at Paradise Park in July for Chrysomelidae, Curculionidae, endemic Elateridae, etc. Stop at the Nisqually Glacier Bridge and look under stones by the river margin for the beautiful large purple Nebria piperi Van D. Road-side flowers yield Cerambycidae and the meadow at Longmire is worth sweeping. Yakima Park is a good deal drier than Paradise Park, not being on the main slope of the mountain, but collecting is good, including the common endemic Eleodes indentata Blais. not found at Paradise Park. Mt. Baker is likewise reached by a good road and provides worthwhile collecting. Mt. Adams is approached from Toppenish on the east. I have never been there. In the Olympic Mountains most of my collecting has been at Olympic Hot Springs at 2,000 feet elevation south of Port Angeles. It provides interesting streamside and flower collecting in July and August. The



endemic carabid, Scaphinotus angusticollis subsp. olympiae Van D. is common and Platysma (Hypherpes) nigrocoeruleus Van D. is not rare. A stiff three and one-half mile hike takes one to Alpine Meadows at Boulder Lake.

#### Eastern Washington

Continuing with alpine situations in Eastern Washington there is Mt. Spokane, elevation 5,800 feet, northeast of Spokane and climbed by a good automobile road. There is Goodman Springs in the Blue Mountains east of Walla Walla traversed by a passable road that runs for several miles at about 5,000 feet elevation and there is Mt. Bonaparte east of Tonasket. The latter is climbed only by a long hike, but the collector has the possibility of finding the very rare Miscodera arctica Payk. (Carabidae) just below the 7,267 foot summit. June and July are the collecting months for these Eastern Washington alpine situations.

Late April to Early May is the time to sweep the sage-brush for its characteristic Curculionidae and Chrysomelidae and Chrysomelidae. The same season and later is the time to collect in the river bottoms and along the beaches of the Columbia and Snake Rivers for Carabidae and Cicindelidae on the ground, Chrysomelidae on the willows. Do not neglect the occasional sand dunes for their characteristic Tenebrionidae and Histeridae. Portions of the margin of Moses Lake and other lakes furnish rich collecting, and excellent ground beetle collecting is provided by the shores of Dry Falls Lake just below the Dry Falls in the Grand Coulee. The shores of Soap Lake yield an abundant and characteristic fauna of Carabidae, Histeridae, Anthicidae, etc., and the waters of Lenore Lake and other alkaline lakes in the Grand Coulee yield characteristic Dytiscidae. The lightly timbered areas near Cle Elum (elev. 2,000 ft.) about the first of May have provided plenteous Carabidae and Tenebrionidae under logs and branches on the ground and interesting beating on the conifers. Turnbull slough near Cheney has given excellent collecting the end of May. Newman Lake east of Spokane is famous for the occasional occurrence of the very rare Cychrus rickseckeri LeC. By July in Eastern Washington the lowland collecting will be largely confined to the immediate vicinity of lakes and rivers.

Such is a most fragmentary account of beetle collecting in Washington. Happy hunting to those who come!

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#### DEATH NOTICE

I have recently learned of the death of Karl Wilhelm Verhoeff of Munchen-Posing in his 79th year on December 6, 1945. Verhoeff is known principally for his taxonomic work in myriapods and terrestrial isopods, but was likewise the author of some papers on beetle morphology. - Melville H. Hatch.